

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 18, lines 5-14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Since all repositories support a standard OID format, it is natural to ask if two repositories can attempt to register for the same OID subtrees. The easiest approach is to not allow the registry to change and simply refuse the second attempt to re-register for the same subtree support. An alternative approach, which can be supported by a preferred embodiment, is to allow the registry to change, but the registration must always be unique and simply could be based on the last repository registration for a given subtree. In this instance, if the anchor point of the OID subtree structure is already registered with the OID abstraction layer, the registry may be overwritten.